ささやかな

9
特装版

のんびり

タアモ

House of the sun. by Taamo

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たいようのいえ 特装版
special episode 1

A Table For One

This is a story from when Mao and I were younger.

十月

AH! STOP MAKING FUN OF ME!!

I'M FINE! I'M GOING TO WORK NOW.

DON'T CALL ME THAT!!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING OVER HERE, TWEEN?

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE LONELY, SO I CAME TO PLAY WITH YOU.

My parents
died on a day
like this.

Mao shows
up a lot on
rainy days.

I suppose
it's not
crazy to
think I might
be lonely.

After that,
Daiki and Hina
went off their
separate ways

and
I stayed
behind.

*Can't
believe it's
already been
four years
since then.*

I'm hoping to bring those two back here once that's over with.

Next year I'll finally graduate and get a job.

HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

HEY, HIRO.

I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE IN *AGES*.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT COMING UP HERE MORE OFTEN.

SORRY FOR NOT CALLING IN A WHILE.

HI AUNTY. I'VE BEEN ALL RIGHT.

SHUT UP. WHEN MY AUNT WAS TAKING ME TO THE STATION

SHE PICKED THE WRONG TRAIN, SO BLAME HER, NOT ME.

OH REALLY, DAIKI?

I ALMOST HAD A HEART-ATTACK TRYING TO PICK UP DAIKI AT THE STATION. IT TOOK FOREVER TO FIND HIM!

Normally, Daiki is pretty cool-headed, but he acts like a pouty little brat whenever he has to deal with anything relating to our parents.

SINCE WHEN DO YOU TRY TO SHIFT THE BLAME ONTO SOMEONE ELSE?

At least he's managed to come back for the anniversary of their death every year.

WELL, IT WASN'T MY FAULT.

But
Hina...

She hasn't
come home,
since moving
to Sendai.

She
hasn't even
called once.

I DON'T
WANNA COME
BACK HERE
ANYMORE.

I HAVE
TO SAY...

I couldn't
even call out
her name.

I couldn't
believe the
words that were
coming out of her
mouth. And with
that, she left.

IT ALWAYS SURPRISES ME HOW BIG THIS HOUSE IS.

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.

YOUR DINING TABLE IS JUST AS HUGE. IT WAS NICE WHEN YOU STILL HAD VISITORS COMING BY, BUT NOW IT JUST FEELS TOO BIG.

THEY REALLY SPLURGED ON THE PLACE.

YEAH.

YEAH.

SHE USED TO *REALLY DIG* HER FORK INTO IT, HUH?

ALL THE SCRATCHES HINA MADE ARE STILL ON IT TOO.

YEAH, IT *IS* A BIT ON THE LARGE SIDE.

I had trouble throwing out our old furniture.

南無阿弥陀佛

川口家之墓

先祖代々之墓

南無阿弥陀佛

and our parents' bed.

Like the dining table that was too big

SO DO YOU PLAN TO STAY AT THE HOUSE?

I SEE.

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD. IF YOU EVER DECIDE YOU WANT TO LEAVE, YOU CAN TALK TO ME ABOUT IT.

YEAH.

I DON'T PLAN ON LEAVING ANYTIME SOON.

OKAY.

It must
be a pretty
pitiful sight.

I'm sure all
they see is me alone
in a house too big
for just one person.

JUST 'CAUSE SCHOOL'S OUT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO CRAM SCHOOL.

OH? GOING HOME SO SOON?

I'M TRYING TO GET INTO A CERTAIN HIGH SCHOOL, SO I DON'T HAVE TIME TO MESS AROUND.

OH YEAH? BUT CAN'T YOU TAKE A LITTLE BREAK FROM IT?

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU'RE HOME.

NO. KOBE.

IS IT A SCHOOL HERE?

IT'S IN KOBE.

THANKS, YOU TOO.

GOOD WORK TODAY, NAKAMURA

I thought he was gonna come back here

What's with Daiki?

Is he just going to stay in Kobe forever?

Is Hina going to do the same?

Is that what will make them happy?

OH? WHAT IS IT?

I GOT YOU A NICE PRESENT COME ON!

HEY.

AH, WELCOME BACK HIRO.

ESPECIALLY WITH SO MANY MEMORIES ATTACHED TO IT

IT MUST'VE BEEN LONELY EATING AT THAT HUGE TABLE

I FOUND IT THE DAY WE CAME HERE.

I FIGURED IT WAS TIME TO MOVE ON.

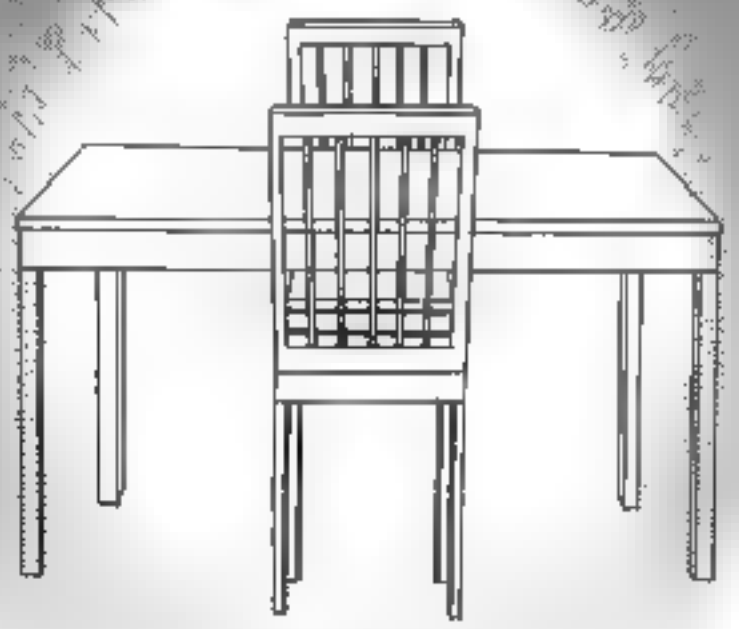
A NICE CONTRACTOR TOOK AWAY THE OLD ONE FOR US

.....

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

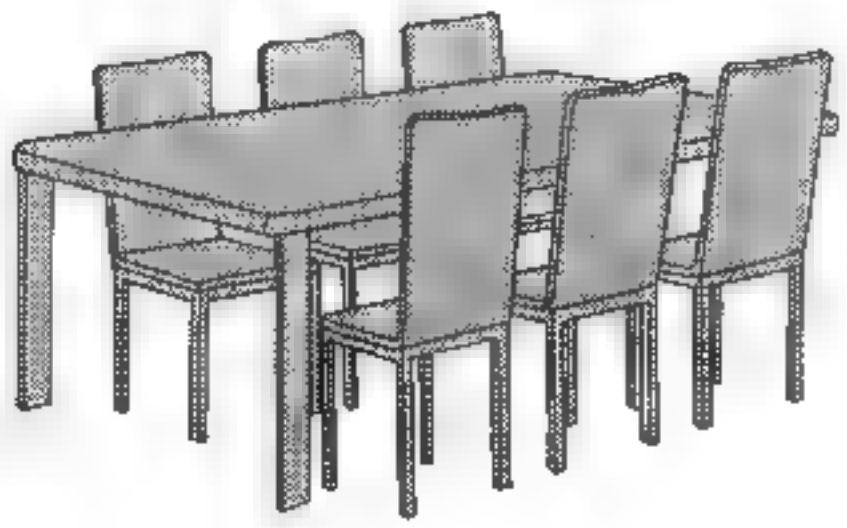
SO HERE'S YOUR NEW ONE!

Hina. Daiki.



Mom. Dad.

is gone.



Our table

I'm so sorry.

It's my fault
for being
too clingy.

Right
So there's
nothing to be
upset about.

HIRO.

WHAT?

I'M NOT CRYING.

I SAW YOU CRYING.

WANT ME TO CHEER YOU UP?

NOTHING. I WAS JUST PASSING BY.

REALLY? YOUR HOUSE IS PRETTY FAR FROM HERE, YA KNOW.

HMMM...

WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

SHUT UP! I JUST LIKE THIS SHRINE, OKAY?!

I SEE...

MAYBE YOUR HEAD IS JUST STUPID?

SHUT UP.

IS YOUR STOMACH HURTING?

ARE YOUR TEETH HURTING?

.....

YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF

SOMETHING HAPPENED AT YOUR HOUSE AGAIN, RIGHT?

IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

I JUST LOST SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO ME.

I BET SOMETHING HAPPENED AT YOURS, THOUGH!

NOTHING HAPPENED!

NO, IT'S NOT!

IF YOU CAN'T BUY IT, HOW ABOUT YOU MAKE A NEW ONE?

.....

WHY CAN'T YOU JUST BUY ANOTHER ONE?

NAH, IT'S FINE.

MAYBE.

MY CRAFTING ABILITIES ARE SUPER AWESOME, SO I'M SURE I COULD HELP SOMEHOW.

OH?

YEP!!

ANYWAY, I NEED TO GET HOME!

SEE YOU LATER!!

SOMEONE HAS TO WATCH THE HOUSE!

THANKS, MAGYO.

THOUGH, I DON'T THINK SHE CAN HEAR ME.

YEAH.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

I CAN JUST MAKE A NEW ONE.

THANKS FOR THE MEAL.

munch munch

eating dinner all by herself right now

I bet Mao's

This is just right

Yeah..

PFF

This table isn't so bad.

Yeah.

END

special episode 2

Another Table For One

I...I'M HOME.

Oh... Dad's here...

.....

AH... OKAY.

I'M GOING OUT

fidget

fidget

He's sure late today.

GROWL~

I'm hungry

and the cats aren't here either.

Let's just buy a bento at the store and go home...

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE, MAO?

That will be ¥1,100.

BEEP

HUH?

U-U-NOTHING!! JUST BUYING A BENTO!!

BUT THIS PLACE IS REALLY FAR FROM YOUR HOUSE.

HUH? SO YOU'RE NOT GONNA BUY ANYTHING?

IT'S NOT!! I'M GOING HOME!!

WE COULD'VE JUST EATEN TOGETHER.

WHAT A WEIRDO.

I got to see him!

THANKS FOR THE FOOD!

This is a story from when I used to eat alone.

This bento is tastier than usual, too.

2 END